

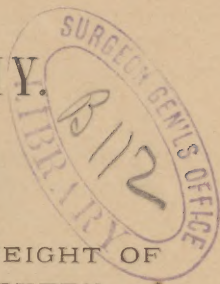
Mc NUTT (W.F.)

ovariotomy.

Mc Nutt



OVARIOTOMY.



PATIENT, 67½ YEARS—WEIGHT OF
TUMOR, 60 POUNDS—EXTEN-
SIVE ADHESIONS—
RECOVERY.

BY

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OVARIOTOMY.

Now that ovariectomy is recognized as one of the legitimate surgical operations, it is neither necessary nor desirable to report every case, any more than it would, for instance, be considered necessary to report every amputation of the thigh. There must always be, however, cases with special features, the reports of which will be both interesting and instructive, and which will have a tendency to extend the benefits of ovariectomy to those who are at present deemed beyond the reach of aid by this operation. My object in reporting the present case is to encourage those who operate for this disease to extend the benefits of this operation to many upon whom ovariectomy is not at present considered justifiable.

The special features which invest this case with interest are the great age of the patient, namely $67\frac{1}{2}$ years, the enormous size of the tumor, namely 60 pounds, the extensive adhesions of the cyst to the whole abdominal walls, iliac fossæ and omentum, and the rapid and uninterrupted recovery of the patient under such circumstances.

I was called October 2d, by Dr. A. G. ANTHONY, to Oakland, to see Mrs. V. Dr. ANTHONY stated to me that Mrs. V. had a very large ovarian tumor, and that he and Dr. P. WHEELER had already tapped it twice, and that it had filled rapidly after each tapping, and her strength was failing very fast. They had taken thirty pounds the first tapping and twenty the second.

Mrs. V. gives the following history of herself: Is $67\frac{1}{2}$ years old; never weighed over 90 pounds; was born in Upper Canada; moved to Buffalo when a child; was married when 17 years old, and moved to Galena, Ill; has had twelve children and three miscarriages; the last child when

47 years old. She first felt the tumor about three years ago (before coming to this coast); has been here about one year. She had been examined by many physicians in the East, all of whom discouraged the idea of an operation on account of her advanced age and the probability of extensive adhesions.

I was asked to see the case with a view of making some suggestions that might prolong her life. I could only concur in the opinion of Drs. ANTHONY and WHEELER that she could not expect to live more than a few weeks, and that tapping was seemingly not improving her condition. I stated to her that ovariectomy offered the only possible hope for prolonging her life, but that in view of her advanced age and the condition of the tumor, I could not offer her much encouragement; that I would, however, undertake the operation if she was willing to take such chances. She not only readily consented to it, but expressed a desire for the operation. With the efficient and kindly assistance

of Drs. ANTHONY, CLINTON CUSHING and WHEELER, of Oakland, and Drs. W. H. MAYS and McQUESTEN, of San Francisco, I removed the tumor on October 4th. The adhesions were separated entirely by the fingers without the use of instruments. There was no vessel tied or hemostatic forceps used. The stump, which was of fair length, was transfixed with a carbolized silk ligature, tied in two portions, and dropped into the cavity. The Lister method was carefully observed, supervised by Dr. MAYS, and the "Weir Atomizer" used. The cavity was kept open until all oozing ceased, when it was hermetically closed by silver sutures. I closed the cavity upon the principle that the proper time to establish drainage is when drainage becomes necessary. The carbolized absorbent cotton was used instead of sponges. The incision healed by first intension. There was no hemorrhage or effusion into the cavity, nor was there peritonitis or tympanites. There was no vomiting or unpleasant symptom following the adminis-

tration of the ether. I gave her twenty drops of laudanum one hour, and some brandy immediately before administering the ether. (I have, for the past year, made it a practice to give opium one hour or two previous to the administration of ether, and find that it greatly lessens the shock and nervous prostration following a surgical operation. Its beneficial effects seem to be due to the fact that it lessens the dread and nervous condition which a patient exhibits previous to being operated upon.) The patient was left in the care of her family physician, Dr. A. G. ANTHONY, to whose constant and untiring watchfulness she certainly owes her life. With the exception of a few doses of opium and quinine there was no medicine administered.

Of the cases of ovariectomy recorded to which I have had access, I find only one at so advanced an age, namely by SPENCER WELLS, age 68, weight of tumor 25 pounds.



